

III. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- PLEASE FIND BELOW A MARKED VERSION OF CLAIMS WITH PRESENT STATUS DELINEATED
 - THE CLAIMS ARE HEREIN AMENDED, CANCELED, OR ADDED TO, SO AS TO EVENTUATE IN THE NEW SET OF PENDING CLAIMS INDICATED BELOW. THIS LISTING OF CLAIMS WILL REPLACE ALL PRIOR VERSIONS AND LISTING OF CLAIMS IN THE APPLICATION.

1.-19. (CANCELED)

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An alloy consisting essentially of from 93.5 wt% to 95.5 wt% Ag, from ~~0.5~~ 1.0 wt% to ~~[[3]]~~ 2 wt% Ge, 1-40 ppm of B, optionally 0.5 wt % of any of Zn, Cd, and Sn, and optionally 0.1-1 wt % Si, and the remainder, apart from impurities, being copper, ~~the weight ratio of Cu to Ge is from 4:1 to 3:1,~~ and the alloy being resistant to the development of porosity~~[[r]]y~~ and brittleness, the development ~~[[“]]hot short[[”]]~~ ~~(cracking)~~ defects when investment cast, the development of cracks or shattering on annealing and quenching and the development of cracks and sagging when heated for joining or torch anneali~~[[m]]ng~~.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The alloy of claim 20, wherein the weight ratio of Cu to Ge is about 3.5:1.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The alloy of claim 20, containing from 1.0 wt% to 1.5 wt% Ge.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The alloy of claim 22, containing about 94.5 wt% Ag, about 4.3 wt% Cu, and about 1.2 wt% Ge.

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The alloy of claim 20, containing 5-20 ppm of boron.

25. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A finished or semi-finished shaped article of the alloy of claim 20.

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The article of claim 25, which is a casting.

27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The article of claim 25, which is at least partly produced from sheet or strip.

28. – 31. (CANCELED)